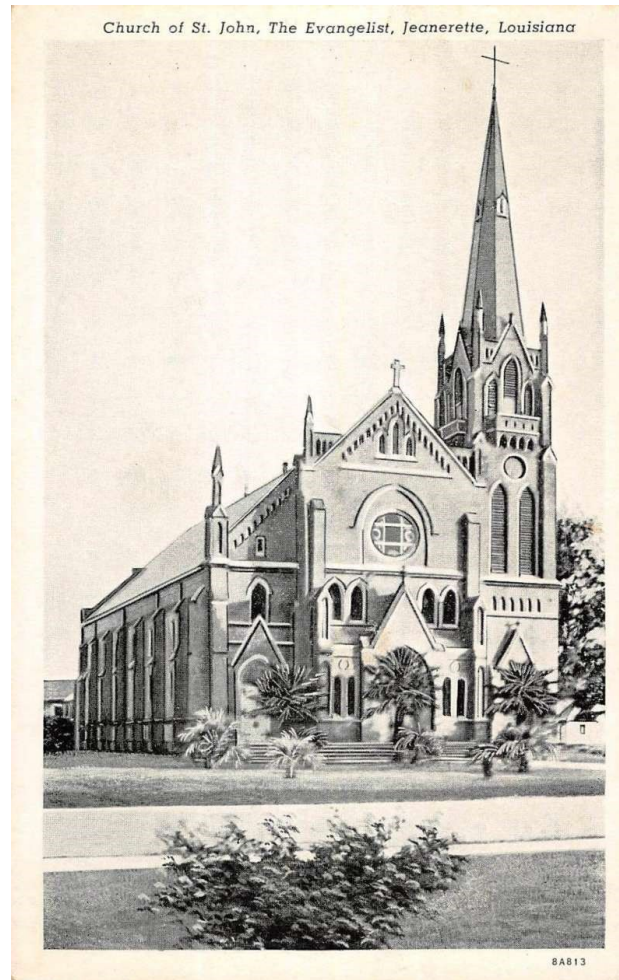


The Main Points

- 1 Priest can receive 1 offering for 1 intention offered at 1 Mass. Each Mass “satisfies” only 1 intention.
- He can pray for as many people as he wants at that same Mass, but he cannot take any more money or satisfy more than 1 intention.
- Every intention (and the \$5 with it) has to be fulfilled at an individual Mass.
- Since our priest can only say so many Masses, we will send your extra intentions to priests in mission territory.
- We will still include your intention as additional prayer requests and list them in the bulletin.
- They just won’t be the primary intention. So they will be listed in a slightly different way in the bulletin.
- Once a week, the Pastor has to offer a Mass with only one intention: the people of his Parish.
- From now on, the 10AM will only be for the Parishioners of St. John the Evangelist. We will not take other Mass intentions for that time.



St. John the Evangelist, Jeanerette

1510 Church St.
Jeanerette, LA 70544

Phone: 337-276-2576

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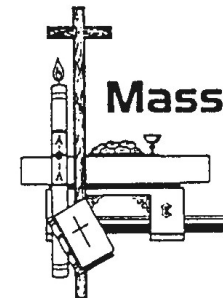
Email: stjohnnev@stjohnjeanerette.org

St. John the Evangelist,
Jeanerette

Understanding Mass Offerings

Did you just “buy” a Mass?

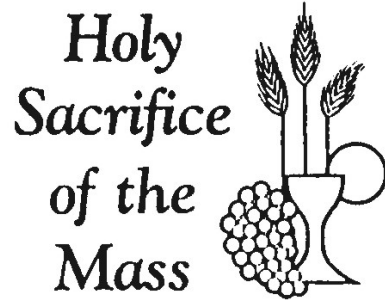
What happens to the money?



Mass Intentions

Based on Diocesan Policy and
Canon Law #s 945-958

How Mass Offerings Work



No, you are not “buying a Mass” when you have Masses said.

We call Mass “The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.” It is our most sacred prayer and an act of worshipping God. The priest offers the Body and Blood of Jesus to God the Father for your benefit.

We also get to make our own contribution to that sacrifice. We do this with the collection on Sundays and we do it with a Mass Offering, where you go to the parish to have Masses said for a particular intention and you pay \$5 for that offering. The \$5 is a token act of sacrifice.

Masses can be offered without any money and they often are. The money is not required, but it is a good way to participate. The money is called an “offering,” though some people might call it a stipend.

Mass Offerings

When a priest offers a Mass, he has a primary intention. It can be anything, but he usually offers the Mass for an intention someone gave to him. When he celebrates that Mass, he “satisfies” the Mass intention. Jesus says “the laborer deserves his wage” (1 Tim 5:18). Since Mass is part of a priest’s “work,” he keeps the \$5 (offering) given for that Mass intention. A priest can celebrate Mass without an offering if he wants.

Keeping it Honest

You’ve probably already seen the problem. What if a priest takes a bunch of intentions and just offers them all for the same Mass? Well, he’s not allowed to do that. A priest can only accept 1 offering per day, except on Christmas. Even if he says multiple Masses and has multiple intentions, he only takes 1 offering.

The Mass is Infinite

One Mass has infinite grace, so a priest can and usually does have other personal or secondary intentions that he includes when he offers Mass. He just can’t take stipends for them or consider them “fulfilled” or “satisfied.”

For example, if a priest’s mom is sick, he can include her as the secondary intention at a Mass he offers for your intention. He satisfies your intention and keeps the \$5 offering, but also prays for his mother like a good son.

Where’s the Money Go?

No parish ever keeps that money. The priest who celebrates the Mass for your intention as their primary intention keeps the \$5 if that is his 1st Mass that day. If it’s his 2nd that day, the intention is still satisfied, but the money is given to a charity specified by the diocese.

If we send your money and intention to a priest in another country, he keeps that money and satisfies your intention with a separate Mass.

What’s that mean for you?

It means that our Mass intention calendar can “fill up” pretty quickly. Only the first intention on that day gets to be the primary intention. So, you may want to ask for open dates to have your intention as the primary one.

Here’s what we’ll do

We know the importance of certain dates. If your date is taken, you can still list it for the Mass on that day. The priest will include it as a secondary intention and people will know to pray for it with you.

Then, your intention will be the primary intention for another priest at another time. So, it’s kind of like you get two Masses for the one intention.